

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /073 W
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O R 301210Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6256
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0690

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, US
SUBJECT: U.S. EMISSARY

REF: ANKARA 0683

1. SINCE DISPATCH REFTTEL, MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG HAS TELEPHONED ME TWICE. THE FIRST TIME (SATURDAY P.M.) HE CALLED TO EXPRESS HIS INCREASING CONCERN THAT A COMBINATION OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL INSTINCTS HERE AND OFFENDED PROCEDURAL AMOUR PROPRE COULD LEAD TURKISH AUTHORITIES TO RESIST DISPATCH OF CLIFFORD MISSION--A MISSION HE PERSONALLY VERY MUCH FAVORS, BELIEVING THAT IT COULD PAVE WAY FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS. HIS PARTICULAR CONCERN IN SATURDAY CALL WAS HIGH-LEVEL TURKISH SENSITIVITIES TO THE APPEARANCE OF THIS EXERCISE BEING PLANNED AND WORKED OUT UNILATERALLY BY U.S. AUTHORITIES, WITHOUT APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOT.

2. IN SECOND CALL FOLLOWING DAY (SUNDAY, JANUARY 30), ELEKDAG REPORTED WHAT HE HAD DONE TO HEAD OFF THESE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES
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AND TO GIVE ME HIS PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF WHERE THINGS NOW STOOD. THE PRIMIN IS STILL OUT OF THE CITY AND ELEKDAG HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH HIM. HE HAD, HOWEVER, TALKED TO ACTING FONMIN OZTURK AND, BY PHONE, TO FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL IN ZURICH. (THE LATTER IS NOW NOT RETURNING TO ANKARA UNTIL LATE TUESDAY NIGHT.) ON THE BASIS OF THESE CONTACTS, ELEKDAG REPORTED THAT "THERE WERE STILL SOME SLIGHT DIFFICULTIES", BUT THAT BASICALLY

HE WAS NOW QUITE CONFIDENT THAT THINGS COULD BE WORKED OUT ALL RIGHT AT THIS END. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE GOT ATTACHED TO THE CLIFFORD MISSION'S NOT RPT NOT BEING REFERRED TO AS A "FACT FINDING MISSION". THAT WOULD CREATE GREAT DIFFICULTY, HE SAID, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE REGARDED IN ANKARA POLITICAL CIRCLES AS A EUPHEMISM FOR LINKAGE OF THE FUTURE OF THE U.S.-TURKISH SECURITY RELATIONSHIP TO THE CYPRUS SITUATION. ELEKDAG, AGAIN CAUTIONING AGAINST ANY PUBLIC LINKING OF THESE TWO ISSUES EITHER BY SECRETARY VANCE OR FORMER SECRETARY CLIFFORD, SAID THAT THE FEELING HERE WAS THAT THE BEST WAY TO DESCRIBE THE MISSION WAS SIMPLY TO SAY THAT SECRETARY CLIFFORD WAS COMING AS A SPECIAL ENVOY TO DISCUSS U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS.

3. TURNING TO THE TIMING OF ANY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TRIP, ELEKDAG SAID THE GOT ASKS THAT SECRETARY VANCE NOT RPT NOT ANNOUNCE THE CLIFFORD MISSION AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON MONDAY. ELEKDAG THEN ADDED THAT HE WOULD NEXT SAY SOMETHING OFFICIAL ON THIS SUBJECT TO ME AND THEN FOLLOW IT WITH A PERSONAL COMMENT. OFFICIALLY, HE SAID, IT IS THE GOT'S POSITION THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSULT BEFORE ANY MISSION IS DECIDED UPON. ON A PERSONAL BASIS HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT WE CAN STRAIGHTEN OUT "THE PROCEDUAL APPEARANCES" ON THIS BY MY CALLING ON ACTING FONMIN OZTURK ON TUESDAY OR ON FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL AFTER HIS RETURN. IF I WERE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE TRIP AT THAT TIME, ELEKDAG WAS CONFIDENT THAT THIS WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE CONSULTATION PROBLEM. HE REPEATED THAT THE MISSION SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED, HOWEVER, UNTIL THAT DISCUSSION HAD TAKEN PLACE.

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4. COMMENT: MINISTER OF STATE OZTURK IS AN ABLE OFFICIAL WHO SERVES AS DEMIREL'S RIGHT HAND MAN ON MANY MATTERS AND ACTS AS FONMIN WHEN CAGLAYANGIL IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY. (DEPT. WILL RECALL THAT HE WAS OFFICIAL I DEALT WITH AT TIME OF BRAZINSKAS EPISODE HERE). BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSENESS TO DEMIREL AND BECAUSE ELEKDAG WILL KEEP CAGLAYANGIL INFORMED, DEPT. NEED NOT RPT NOT AWAIT CAGLAYANGIL'S RETURN TO INITIATE SUGGESTED ANKARA "CONSULTATIONS" RE TRIP, IF WE ARE OTHERWISE IN POSITION TO MOVE FORWARD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA00690
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770033-0451
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977015/aaaaadol.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 683
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3591469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. EMISSARY
TAGS: PFOR, TU, CY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/752a71d9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009